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attack ponce are investigating as a hate crime. He told police that at least one of the assailants was Hispanic. No arrests have been made.

The attack on the 40-year district veteran led to angry words among teachers, parents and administrators, who blame one another for creating a volatile atmosphere at the 750-student school, which is 90 percent Hispanic.

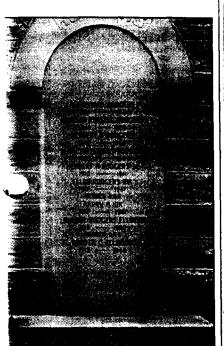
Some parents had been pushing for Bernstein's replacement for the past year by a Spanish-speaking principal. They complained he was insensitive to their concerns over Proposition 227, the state law banning bilingual education. They also accused him of trying to thwart their efforts to obtain waivers allowing their children to remain in bilingual classes.

have occurred during the past battle for independence. several years.

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DAVID I. ANDERSEN / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

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feeling of back home."

Butler does not condemn people for putting flags in the trash.

"They think it's the right thing to do." Butler said. "I'm doing what I think is more right to do."

And Butler does not think a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning will work. It will only lead to more flag burning.

"That's tradition in the U.S.," Butler said. "You try to restrict freedom and people will exercise their freedom.'

